

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

847

October 16, 2017

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

The President recently raised the stakes on his continuing attacks against the free and independent press when he questioned whether NBC station licenses should be renewed – or revoked – based on his disagreement with the reports released by NBC News. We find this escalation very troubling in that it could have a chilling effect on First Amendment freedoms.

The Protecting Dissenting Viewpoints and Voices Act specifically prohibits the FCC from retaliating against stations based on the viewpoints expressed or disseminated by the licensee, and prohibits the President from directing the Commission to take action against licensees on the same basis. We would encourage you to publicly support this bill and the position it stakes out.

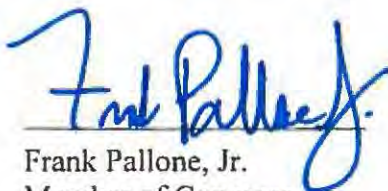
It is a sad state of affairs that such a bill would have to be introduced in the first place, but it is the situation that we find ourselves in today. In the absence of Congressional action on this bill, we ask you to specifically commit that you will promptly inform our offices if anyone in the Administration contacts you or a member of your staff regarding the license renewals for any broadcast station. We also ask for you to confirm your commitment that you will remain independent from any pressure by the President or his administration to influence the Commission's review of any broadcast license renewal or broadcast license transfer application. We hope that you stand by your prior comments that "these demands are fundamentally at odds with our legal and cultural traditions."

We appreciate your prompt reply to our requests by October 24.

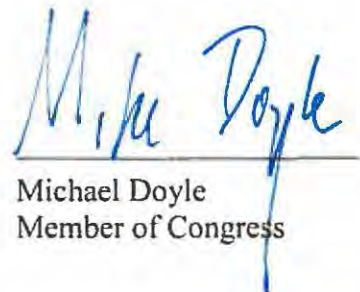
Sincerely,



Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Michael Doyle  
Member of Congress



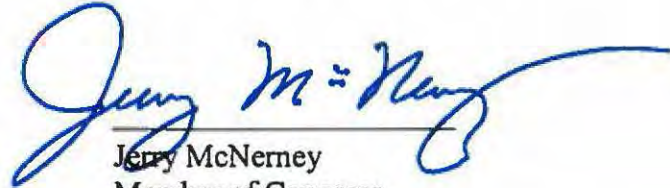
Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



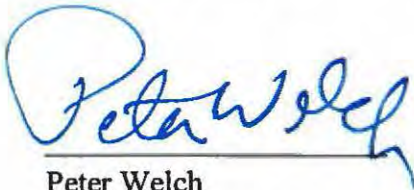
Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Mike Doyle  
U.S. House of Representatives  
239 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

Thank you for your letter regarding First Amendment freedoms and the independence of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission).

As a strong supporter of the First Amendment and the FCC's independence, I can assure you that under my leadership the Commission's review of any broadcast license renewal or broadcast license transfer application will not be impacted by political pressure from the Executive Branch. I also committed, in a March 17, 2017 letter to Democrats serving on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, that I would inform them and the public if there were any attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making with respect to any media interests with the FCC's jurisdiction, a commitment that clearly includes broadcast license renewal and transfer applications. I am happy to expand that commitment to include informing you as well if there is any such attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making on these matters.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and look forward to working with you on important matters before the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" and last name "Pai" being more prominent than the middle initial "V.".

Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lujan:

Thank you for your letter regarding First Amendment freedoms and the independence of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission).

As a strong supporter of the First Amendment and the FCC's independence, I can assure you that under my leadership the Commission's review of any broadcast license renewal or broadcast license transfer application will not be impacted by political pressure from the Executive Branch. I also committed, in a March 17, 2017 letter to Democrats serving on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, that I would inform them and the public if there were any attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making with respect to any media interests with the FCC's jurisdiction, a commitment that clearly includes broadcast license renewal and transfer applications. I am happy to expand that commitment to include informing you as well if there is any such attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making on these matters.

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Ajit V. Pai



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WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you for your letter regarding First Amendment freedoms and the independence of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission).

As a strong supporter of the First Amendment and the FCC's independence, I can assure you that under my leadership the Commission's review of any broadcast license renewal or broadcast license transfer application will not be impacted by political pressure from the Executive Branch. I also committed, in a March 17, 2017 letter to Democrats serving on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, that I would inform them and the public if there were any attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making with respect to any media interests with the FCC's jurisdiction, a commitment that clearly includes broadcast license renewal and transfer applications. I am happy to expand that commitment to include informing you as well if there is any such attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making on these matters.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Jerry McNerney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2265 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

Thank you for your letter regarding First Amendment freedoms and the independence of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission).

As a strong supporter of the First Amendment and the FCC's independence, I can assure you that under my leadership the Commission's review of any broadcast license renewal or broadcast license transfer application will not be impacted by political pressure from the Executive Branch. I also committed, in a March 17, 2017 letter to Democrats serving on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, that I would inform them and the public if there were any attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making with respect to any media interests with the FCC's jurisdiction, a commitment that clearly includes broadcast license renewal and transfer applications. I am happy to expand that commitment to include informing you as well if there is any such attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making on these matters.

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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
U.S. House of Representatives  
237 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

Thank you for your letter regarding First Amendment freedoms and the independence of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission).

As a strong supporter of the First Amendment and the FCC's independence, I can assure you that under my leadership the Commission's review of any broadcast license renewal or broadcast license transfer application will not be impacted by political pressure from the Executive Branch. I also committed, in a March 17, 2017 letter to Democrats serving on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, that I would inform them and the public if there were any attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making with respect to any media interests with the FCC's jurisdiction, a commitment that clearly includes broadcast license renewal and transfer applications. I am happy to expand that commitment to include informing you as well if there is any such attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making on these matters.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2188 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you for your letter regarding First Amendment freedoms and the independence of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission).

As a strong supporter of the First Amendment and the FCC's independence, I can assure you that under my leadership the Commission's review of any broadcast license renewal or broadcast license transfer application will not be impacted by political pressure from the Executive Branch. I also committed, in a March 17, 2017 letter to Democrats serving on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, that I would inform them and the public if there were any attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making with respect to any media interests with the FCC's jurisdiction, a commitment that clearly includes broadcast license renewal and transfer applications. I am happy to expand that commitment to include informing you as well if there is any such attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making on these matters.

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October 23, 2017

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2463 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

Thank you for your letter regarding First Amendment freedoms and the independence of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission).

As a strong supporter of the First Amendment and the FCC's independence, I can assure you that under my leadership the Commission's review of any broadcast license renewal or broadcast license transfer application will not be impacted by political pressure from the Executive Branch. I also committed, in a March 17, 2017 letter to Democrats serving on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, that I would inform them and the public if there were any attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making with respect to any media interests with the FCC's jurisdiction, a commitment that clearly includes broadcast license renewal and transfer applications. I am happy to expand that commitment to include informing you as well if there is any such attempt by the Executive Branch to influence my decision-making on these matters.

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The Honorable Peter Welch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

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